

60-6448/A

August 30, 1960

Mrs. Samuel Sonenfield
27748 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Sonenfield:

I have received and have read with close attention your thoughtful letter of August 18, 1960, raising a number of questions with regard to the Powers trial.

As you can well appreciate, many of the points on which you asked my comment, are still in the classified field, and it would not be possible for me to write you about them. Furthermore, even though the trial itself is over, Powers is still a prisoner of the Soviet, and we should be careful in our comments that we do nothing to make his own situation more difficult.

Possibly some day you will be passing through Washington, and I will have an opportunity to talk with you further about some of the points you raise.

At this time about all I would add is that you should take into account the fact that Powers was over a hundred days in solitary confinement without access to family, friends, his own legal advisers, or any U.S. Embassy representative prior to the trial, that undoubtedly the Soviets had drummed into his mind what they wished to come out at the trial, and that this can be done and be effective even short of the techniques of "brain washing," as in the Korean cases to which you refer.

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Also, I want you to know that in selecting the pilots for such difficult missions, no one went out into the open market to try to lure candidates by the pay scale, which, I may add, is about equivalent to that which a chief pilot on one of our airlines receives today. On the contrary, persons whose past training and other technical, mental and ideological outlook seemed to qualify them for this job, were chosen on the basis of these qualifications and willingness to serve with full knowledge of the dangers. There never was a sought applicant for these positions.

Sharing with you fully the sentiments you express in the closing paragraph of your letter, I only wish I could be more responsive at this time, but it would not be in the interests of the prisoner or of national security to do so.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

DPD-DD/P:JAC:mg (23 Aug 60)

Rewritten AWD:at

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